



TUESDAY EVENING, FEB. 9, 1904.

From Washington.

[Correspondence of the Alexandria Gazette.]

Washington, Feb. 9.

The Baltimore papers, whose plants, with exception of the World, were destroyed in the great conflagration, and which are being printed now in the offices of the Washington papers, report the loss on account of the fire from \$75,000,000 to \$150,000,000.

Owing to the failure of the Maryland Legislature last night to pass a resolution requesting the presence of Federal troops at Baltimore, Lieutenant General Chaffee, Chief of Staff, has rescinded the orders given yesterday to General Corbin to send regulars from New York, and has ordered the withdrawal of the troops from Fort McHenry which were on duty there yesterday.

August W. Machen, star defendant in the postoffice conspiracy case, testified today. He vigorously combated the two points of the government's case, showing by documents that the payments by Lorenz to him were in discharge of a \$25,000 note given by Lorenz for Machen's interest in a Toledo oil concern, and claiming that the attaching of his initials to department orders by a subordinate was made necessary on account of the enormous business of his division.

The State Department has sent a circular note the powers asking that they act in a similar manner with the United States in an effort to persuade Japan and Russia to preserve the neutrality of China and to limit the area of hostilities.

The United States, on a request received two days ago from Japan, has agreed to take charge of Japanese affairs throughout Russia.

Fifty-Eighth Congress.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 9.

SENATE.

The Senate proceeded to the consideration of the diplomatic and consular appropriation bill.

It was passed without debate.

Senator Overman then addressed the Senate in opposition to the Panama treaty.

HOUSE.

The House today, immediately after the reading of the journal, took up the contested election case of William Connell versus George Howell, from the Tenth Pennsylvania district. The resolution of the majority unseating Howell, democrat, and giving the seat to Connell, republican, was presented by Mr. Driscoll of New York, chairman of the committee on elections No. 3. The minority resolution favoring Howell was presented by Mr. McLain, of Mississippi. It was agreed that the debate should continue until 3 p. m. tomorrow.

Virginia News.

James Frazer, formerly of Orange county, died a few days ago at his home in Georgia, aged eighty years.

The ice house of Warner Moore & Co., situated on the James river in the lower portion of Richmond, was burned last night. The structure made a blaze visible for miles but the loss was not great.

Scott Davis, forty years of age, committed suicide at his home in Clarke county on Sunday by cutting his throat with a razor. Dependence over continued ill health is assigned as the cause of his death.

The War Department has sent Gov. Montague a letter denying his request and that of the representatives of other southern States, for proof sheets of the muster rolls of the Confederate army, now being compiled by the department, along with those of the Union army.

AID FOR JAMESTOWN.

Gen. Fitz Lee and the other officers of the Jamestown Exposition Company held a meeting last night at the Raleigh Hotel, in Washington, with the members of the Virginia delegation in Congress, for the purpose of discussing various features of the exposition, which is to be held in 1907. Others present were J. Taylor Ellyson and Park Agnew, chairman of the democratic and republican State committees of Virginia, respectively. As the result of the meeting it was decided to have introduced in Congress a bill making an appropriation of \$3,000,000.

Today the exposition company officers, with the Senators and Representatives from Virginia, called on the President and extended to him and his cabinet an invitation to go to Norfolk on May 13 for the ceremonies inaugurating the work for the exposition.

Today Senator Daniel introduced in the Senate and Representative Maynard in the House, the bill making the \$3,000,000 appropriation. The officers and directors of the exposition are now much pleased with their recent success in raising \$1,000,000. The Virginia legislature has appropriated \$200,000, and the cities of Tidewater Virginia will give \$500,000 more. It is considered that the outlook is most encouraging, and all indications point to a great success.

COURT OF APPEALS.

Collins vs. George; argued and submitted.

Southern Railway Company et al. vs. Glenn's administrator, et al.; and Glenn's administrator vs. Southern Railway Company et al.; argued and continued.

Next case to be called: Lloyd, et al., vs. Lloyd, executor, et al.

WHAT THE TROOPS COST.—The cost of the street railway strike to the State of Virginia last summer is accurately stated at \$69,352.78. Of this sum \$60,919.96 was paid to the military on duty here, and the remainder was expended for transportation and incidental expenses, including materials, provisions, drugs, hospital attendance, medical service and all the odds and ends of expense incident to the quartering and care of more than a thousand armed men.

The amounts paid railways for transporting troops were as follows: Chesapeake and Ohio Railway, \$2,049.43; Southern Railway, \$390.10; Atlantic Coast Line Railway, \$298.32; Norfolk and Western Railway, \$210.28; Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railway, \$190.39; total, \$3,138.52.

These figures merely cover the cost to the State, and take no account of what the strike cost the city, the street railway company and the men on strike. It is probable that these expenses, added to the cost to the State, will quadruple the figures quoted above. — [Richmond Times-Dispatch.

An ore pile, 80 feet high, caved in this morning at Mingo Junction, Ohio, twenty miles north of Wheeling, W. Va. crushing four men.

Fire Under Control

Baltimore Fire Checked Last Yesterday Evening—Seventy-five Blocks, Embracing 2,500 Buildings, Destroyed.

The fire in Baltimore is under control. The great army of firemen, aided by the people of the city, made a desperate stand at Jones falls early yesterday afternoon and saved the residence sections from destruction. The mayor confirms the statement that the fire has been checked. Not a single life has been lost.

In the burned district great blazes continue, but they are no menace, being islands of fire in a desolate waste. A few small and quickly conquered fires were set by flying embers in the district beyond the falls. The city is quiet and splendid order is maintained.

The burned district is within the territory bounded on the west by Liberty street, on the north by Lexington street, on the east by Jones falls, and on the south by the basin. Within this district were the big structures on Fayette, Gay, Lombard, Charles, Balderston, Elliott, Hollingsworth, and Chesapeake streets.

Passing southeast along the basin, the following, large docks were destroyed: McClure's, Patterson's, Smith's, Frederick, Long, and Union. Small thoroughfares, which do not extend as far north as Lexington street, and which were in the path of the flames, are Commerce, Frederick, and Mills streets.

The district thus swept by the fire comprised 75 blocks and nearly 2,500 buildings.

The loss no one attempts to estimate. A member of the board of insurance commissioners says: "It is impossible to give an approximate estimate. It is safe to say the loss exceeds \$100,000,000."

Inspector of Buildings Preston places the building loss alone at \$150,000,000. The city is under control of State and federal troops.

Restaurants are running short of food, and the destruction of commission houses along the wharves has cut off the source of immediate supply. Food supplies will be rushed from New York.

The fire which has devastated Baltimore was one of the most serious that has visited any city. Starting at the corner of Lombard and Liberty streets, the fire zone extends in a rectangle five blocks in width to Calvert street. At this point the varying winds caused the path of destruction to wind by devious and eccentric ways down to Jones' falls, taking in the territory as far south as the north side of Pratt street. At the falls a branch of the flames, by some strange fatality on the wind, switched back and traversed the south side of Pratt street, to Light street, destroying every building along both sides of Pratt street to the water front. Thence, apparently taking the water front as a boundary, the flames swept down toward the east, consuming everything in their track and leaving only heaps of blackened and worthless ruins to mark their path.

All business was suspended yesterday, as there was little left in Baltimore wholesale districts to do business on. Most of the merchants will call their salesmen off the road, having no stock to deliver to buyers. Others are arranging with out-of-town jobbers in similar lines to take care of their trade pending arrangements for a resumption of business. What is true of the jobbing trade was true in all markets. Commission trade was at a standstill. Many of these houses were destroyed, and those who escaped the flames were prevented from doing business by the impassable condition of the streets and by the rigid military guard which was maintained throughout the whole center of the city. Accommodations could not be obtained at the banks, and without credits business is necessarily paralyzed. There was little heart for trade, however, and it will be many weeks before matters in this line will go along in their accustomed groove.

NOTES.

Prominent capitalists, business men and real estate dealers agree that it is out of the question to give near a correct estimate of the loss. They, however, advance opinions approximating the loss at from \$65,000,000 to \$125,000,000. Mr. Alexander Brown, of the old banking house of Alexander Brown & Sons, says that an estimate of \$65,000,000 would be very conservative.

It is reassuring to those who had valuables in the vaults of the several trust and deposit companies to know that they escaped damage. Crowds of eager box holders in the financial institutions thronged the streets from early morning in an effort to find out if their valuables were safe. The crowd included millionaires, merchants, small tradesmen and many women, and when they ascertained that the vaults were safe they left greatly relieved. It will be some days probably before the safety deposit vaults will be open generally, but reasonable assurance can be given to those whose valuables are locked in them that they are safe and intact. These boxes contain millions of stocks and bonds, valuable papers, notes and perhaps currency.

The plan of dynamiting the buildings in the path of the fire, conceived in the hope of checking its course failed almost wholly because of the fierceness of the blaze and the rapidity with which the flames leaped from block to block, as well as owing to the ineffectiveness of the explosion, which did not grind the buildings to dust, as was expected.

City Engineer Fendall said yesterday in speaking of the disappointing effect of the blasting: "It is true that the dynamiting had no real effect in checking the fire, and I do not believe that had we succeeded in destroying an entire block of buildings by this method it would have saved anything. One of the reasons why our explosions did not tumble the buildings as we expected was that we were too close to the fire and had not time to properly drill holes and locate the charges. They were set off by means of an electric battery, and the experts in charge of the handling of the charges were thoroughly competent. Our first plan was to destroy the buildings on the edge of the fire, in the hope that they would fall, but although we used very heavy charges after the first one, only a few of them were successful."

A fact which it is claimed as emphasized by the fire is the utter failure of so-called fireproof buildings to resist the power of intense heat. The Continental Trust Building, which on completion was heralded throughout the country as an absolutely fireproof building, was an easy prey to the flames Sunday night and now only the charred and dismantled hull of the 16-story structure marks

the position of the much vaunted fireproof structure. The Equitable Building is cited as another "perfectly fireproof" building, yet it too succumbed and instances of much-heralded fireproof buildings which went up in flames and smoke on that dreadful Sunday could be multiplied almost without limit and the conclusion is clearly drawn that only by using proper precautions and protecting their buildings from the influence of fire can owners and occupants hope to escape disaster.

The Maryland legislature last night under a suspension of the rules passed a law that February 8 to 15, 1904, inclusive, shall be legal holidays as regards the presenting for payment or acceptance and the protesting of notes, drafts and bills and shall be treated as Sundays. All bills, drafts, notes, etc., presentable for payment or acceptance on those days shall be deemed to be presentable on February 16. The Governor is empowered to extend by proclamation this period of bank holiday from time to time, in his discretion, until the present emergency shall, in his judgment, be ended. In the event of his proclamation for additional bank holidays then notes and bills shall be payable on the succeeding day.

There was a general meeting of the Citizens' Penitentiary Relief Committee, attended by several members of the Legislature and the city council, held in the mayor's reception room at the city hall yesterday afternoon. Various suggestions were made as to the best means of securing relief funds and money for restoring municipal buildings, removing the debris, replacing those lost by the fire department, and buying dynamite. It was finally resolved to ask the legislature for authority to float a temporary loan, not to exceed \$2,000,000.

The only building in the burned area that stands staunchly is that of the Safe Deposit and Trust Company on South street below Baltimore. Its interior woodwork on the northwest is scorched, but otherwise it is uninjured.

The fire will take a leading place among the three great fire catastrophes in the history of the country.

The opinion was expressed yesterday by an insurance expert that the insurance companies will be able to meet the losses caused by the fire.

A bill was introduced yesterday by Representative Enrich of Illinois appropriating \$1,000,000 for the relief of sufferers from the Baltimore fire.

The Baltimore papers state that the fire covered 75 blocks, or 140 acres of ground. As there are 640 acres in a square mile and as Alexandria is about a mile square, the business district in Baltimore is equal to over one-fourth of the area of Alexandria.

Official reports state that but one person was killed by the fire.

THE SITUATION TODAY.

Baltimore, Feb. 9.—Acting Chief Enrich of the Baltimore fire department made this statement this morning:

"The fire at 9 o'clock this morning is practically a thing of the past. Ruins are vomiting forth flame and smoke but there is now no danger of its spreading farther."

The weather this morning is sharp and chill. A cold spell of two weeks duration would entail suffering in its direct form on a large portion of the families of Baltimore. Food is scarce. Much of the available supply was burned when the fierce onrush of the flames swept away the commission district. In one of the most prominent hotels last night food was exhausted at 9 o'clock.

Specially expressed orders were delivered from Philadelphia for breakfast today. This typifies the situation as to provisions, but in humbler quarters the pinch is more sharply felt.

Back of these causes for apprehension lies the general demoralization which affects every stratum of Baltimore. The realization of the magnitude and completeness of the stroke which fate has dealt their city affects banker and worker alike.

The recovery will be a herculean effort, not necessarily of money and financial enterprise, but of civic spirit and indomitable will by the whole citizen body.

Adjutant General Riggs, speaking of the police condition of the city this morning said: "Not one case of attempted or accomplished looting has been reported. The city is not under martial law. The troops are simply an adjunct to the police and a cordon has been established and will be maintained around the entire fire zone. Suspicious characters will not be tolerated and the saloons must all remain closed."

Major General H. C. Corbin, who arrived here last evening, following a midnight conference with Adjutant General Riggs, of the State troops, returned to his New York headquarters, first having countermanded orders directing three battalions of regulars from Governors' Island and the others from Plattsburg and Fort Madison barracks to report to Baltimore as additional guards. The situation was thoroughly satisfactory to General Corbin.

Baltimore, Feb. 9.—The vaults of the burned Continental Trust Company building were opened at noon, thousands of dollars in currency and bonds being found undamaged. Such banks as are able are doing business despite the holiday declared for ten days. Assistant U. S. Treasurer Dryden after communicating with Secretary Shaw opened the sub-treasury today, making twelve million dollars available to the local national banks if required. Half the street car lines in the city are running. The streets are thronged with holiday crowds.

At 10 o'clock this morning the ruined Law building facing the new and imposing court house was dynamited by a naval expert sent from Washington last night by Secretary Moody. All attempts to bring down the ruins yesterday were futile, the charges used being too light. Fifteen pounds of dynamite were exploded under the structure this morning in a series of mines. The detonations could be heard for more than three miles. The dynamiting was performed by special permission of military and civic authorities.

Special agents of all the important fire insurance companies were in session here today. They state that as fast as claims can be established policy holders will receive slight drafts, dollar for dollar.

The Austrian peace society has sent a cablegram to President Roosevelt requesting him to intervene in the Russian-Japanese conflict under the provisions of the international arbitration tribunal at The Hague.

The President yesterday nominated Geo. C. Pritchard, of North Carolina, to be marshal for the central district of the Indian Territory.

War in the East.

Japan Ready to Attack Russia—War Preparations on the Part of Both Nations—Virtual Casus Belli by Japan.

The following dispatch, which was delayed by the Japanese censor, has been received from Bennett Burleigh, dated Nagasaki, Japan, February 6:

"It is Russia who deliberately precipitated the crisis. She procured transports and then secretly dispatching her fleet from Port Arthur some days ago, escorted vessels loaded with a full division of troops and landed them near the Yulu river, thus occupying northern Korea. The Japanese patience then became exhausted and yesterday the Mikado's government also moved its ships to Masampo, where during the morning files of marines took possession of certain Russian merchant vessels, including the Shilka and Manchuria and one ship which had been chartered by the Russian government and was engaged in loading up with a cargo of coal and stores of Port Arthur. The Japanese encountered no resistance and the steamers have now been placed under guard. It is reported two other Russian vessels have been taken outside and escorted to Sasebo."

The French Foreign Office was advised yesterday afternoon that the Japanese have cut the cable connecting Japan and Korea. The object of this action is believed to be to prevent news of the operations of the Japanese reaching Russia, which was possible, no matter how closely censored the dispatches sent might be. Following the breaking off of relations between Russia and Japan, the cutting of the cable is regarded as significant of the purposes of the Japanese to begin hostilities.

A detachment of Russian troops arrived at Peking Sunday evening, bringing the legation guard of Russia up to its full strength. Preparations for the dispatch of troops to guard the frontier of Chi Li province continue.

K. Morikawa, Japanese Consul at Vancouver, is kept busy every day receiving applications from British subjects to join the Japanese army. The Consul says the applications are from officers and men in active service at Esquimaux, a British north Pacific station; retired army and navy men; local militiamen and even private citizens.

The London St. James Gazette asserts on diplomatic authority that, assuming that Russia defeats Japan, she will be confronted with a demand for the acknowledgment of Chinese sovereignty in Manchuria from Great Britain and the United States, and that she must either grant it or fight both countries. An understanding, the paper adds, has been reached in this sense between the United States and Great Britain. This is denied at the State Department in Washington.

The Chefoo correspondent of the London Daily Mail cables that 60 Japanese transports are landing troops at various ports in Korea, from Masampo and Fusan, on the South, to Kunsan, Mokpo and Chemulpho, on the west. Seoul is to be occupied, and the landing is being covered by the torpedo division. The main body of the Japanese fleet, the correspondent concludes, will sail in the direction of Port Arthur.

The Clash of Arms.

Two Russian Battleships and Cruiser Sunk by Japanese.

Paris, Feb. 9.—The Agence Nationale publishes a dispatch from St. Petersburg, stating that the Japanese navy has sunk two Russian cruisers and one transport off Port Arthur.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 9.—According to the Official Messenger, a paper closely in touch with all governmental affairs, the first gun of the Japanese-Russian war has been fired, and war is an actuality. The paper reports that Admiral Alexeff, Russian Viceroy of the far East, at midnight of February 8th telegraphed the Czar that nine Japanese boats suddenly made an attack by mines upon the Russian squadron in the outer roads, off Port Arthur. In the clash the Russian battleships Retvizan and Tzarevitch and the cruiser Pallada were damaged. The damaged battleships are of the latest and best in the Russian navy.

The Retvizan was launched in Philadelphia by the Cramps in 1901. She is a vessel of 12,700 tons displacement, has an armament of four 12-inch, 12 six inch quick firing, and 20 three-inch quick firing guns. She has an indicated horse power of 16,300, and a normal speed of 18 knots an hour.

The Tzarevitch was launched in 1902. She has a displacement of 13,100 tons, and an armament and horse power similar to that of the Retvizan.

Chefoo, Feb. 9.—As prophesied in these dispatches yesterday the initial victory of the Russo-Japanese war has been scored by the Japanese navy by a sensational attack under the very guns of Port Arthur. The most vulnerable point of Russian defense has been, in fact, Port Arthur, the harbor being too small to hold all the fleet, necessitating a number to anchor in the outer roads. Two days ago the Japanese vessels were sighted off Wei-Hai-Wei. On Monday night under cover of darkness a torpedo detachment of 9 vessels got within firing distance and discharged tubes. Two Russian battleships and a cruiser were damaged.

One report received here says the vessels are in a sinking condition, while another says the damage sustained was slight.

The greatest confusion was immediately manifested aboard the Russian fleet of vessels. The Japanese fleet retreated amid a furious broadside from several of the Russians. There was no report of damage on board the Japanese ships.

The result will give the Japanese predominance required while she disembarks her army on the Korean coast, probably at the mouth of the Cheng-Chang-Ang river.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 9.—Admiral Alexeff has sent a report of the attack and its result to the Czar.

The battle has caused the cancelling of the imperial ball which was set for this evening. In its place a solemn Te Deum will be celebrated at 8 o'clock this afternoon and will be attended by all the court functionaries. Prayers will be offered for speedy victory to the Russian crews.

London, Feb. 9.—A Japanese export house has just received information that Russian war ships have captured the Japanese steamer Inaba Maru, near Hong Kong.

London, Feb. 9.—A St. Petersburg dispatch, time 2:30 p. m., says the admiralty has received news that the Japanese made a vicious attack on Port Arthur. The place is reported in flames. The Japanese are said to have suffered heavily, losing eleven war ships. One Russian warship is also reported sunk. Eleven Russians are said to have been killed and many wounded.

Virginia Legislature.

As stated in the Gazette of that day both branches of the legislature yesterday unanimously adopted a resolution extending the sympathy of the State to the stricken city of Baltimore.

SENATE.

In the Senate Mr. McIlwaine offered a bill providing that where any person shall without just cause desert or neglect to provide for his wife or minor children he shall be punished by a fine not exceeding \$100 or imprisonment not exceeding one year, or both. The court, however, has discretion to release the guilty person for one year on probation, during which time he shall contribute a fixed sum weekly to the support of his wife and children.

Mr. Shands introduced a bill to provide a punishment for throwing or shooting at conveyances, passenger trains or steamboats in which the public travel.

HOUSE.

A bill was offered by Mr. Parker exempting from taxation all the manufacturing enterprises in the State, and giving those so engaged the right to sell their products throughout Virginia. The measure reads as follows:

Whereas the employment of capital in manufacturing enterprises in the State affords employment to labor and increases the permanent taxable resources of the State by developing property in the increasing of factories;

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia, That no license taxes, State or municipal, shall be required of persons or companies engaged in manufacturing in this State, and that such persons or companies shall have the right to sell the product of their factories, located in the State, throughout the State, without the payment of any license tax, State or municipal.

Two bills were offered by Mr. Stewart. One provides that persons maliciously shooting or throwing stones at railroad trains, electric cars, or water craft shall be punished by confinement in the penitentiary from five to ten years. If the action is not malicious the punishment shall be imprisonment not over twelve months, and a fine from \$100 to \$300.

Mr. Stewart's second bill provides that any person obstructing a canal, railroad or transportation company, or removing any part thereof, shall be punished by imprisonment from three to ten years, and if the crime result in the death of any one, it shall be deemed murder.

A bill was offered by Mr. Gray, amending the laws in relation to the assignment of dower.

Mr. Griffith presented a bill providing that persons whose elections are contested shall have ten days wherein to prepare their papers. The contestants shall begin to take depositions within twenty days after an election, and complete them within ten days. The contestants have ten days in which to take depositions. An amendment to the law of exemptions from distress warrants was offered by Mr. Bridgeforth. It applies to farmers and allows them to keep a pair of oxen or other draught animals and certain farming implements.

The law in regard to attachments for rent is amended by a bill offered by Mr. Pannill.

When the Jordan oyster ground bill came up for engrossment, its patron presented an amendment conforming it to the report of the courts of justice committee, which provides for a report of the proceedings of the commission created by the bill to be made to the next legislature. After a somewhat heated debate the bill was passed by until today and ordered printed with the substitute. The opponents of the measure made a vain effort to have it referred to the committee on the Chesapeake and its tributaries.

Other bills were introduced:

To make certain changes in the law in relation to exemptions from the operations of the homestead law.

To prevent the throwing of stones, etc., against steam cars, boats, etc.

To amend law in relation to obstructing canals, railroads, etc.

ROANOKE EXCITED.

Regarding the Shields assault case, Chief of police Dyer made the following statement in Roanoke yesterday evening:

"We have at last struck what is a good trail, and if the people will go along and attend to their business and conduct themselves as all good citizens should, it is possible that we will work it out."

The Roanoke militia were ordered to reassemble last night, but for what purpose could not be ascertained. This, together with an increase of reward by the governor, and the proclamation by the mayor, is regarded as significant, and hundreds of anxious citizens gathered on the streets last night. The proclamation is as follows:

To the Public: The excitement prevailing during the past week has interfered with the authorities, who are doing everything that might have been done to ferret out and arrest the brute who assaulted Mrs. Shields and her little daughter. Sufficient time has now elapsed for our people to calm down and do nothing rash. The crowd which gathered Saturday night with no legitimate object in view has disgraced this city and its good citizens. The throwing of rocks at negro women or threatening the lives of colored people is unmanly and cowardly. If any negro, either man or woman, uses incendiary language, report to me as mayor, and they will be dealt with according to law.

I appeal to all classes to restrain their wrath and indignation, and aid rather than retard the authorities in keeping the peace and assist in the apprehension of the criminal. No more mobs taking the law in their own hands will be allowed to go un molested, and will be dispersed and the leaders prosecuted in the courts. I again entreat the public not to force the authorities to adopt vigorous methods; the law must and will be enforced. The negro brute has not yet been captured.

Amy Helm, the colored woman, who was visited by a mob on Saturday night, and who went into spasms from fear, died yesterday. She had made obnoxious statements regarding the Shields assault case.

A telegram from Gov. Montague yesterday stated that he had increased the reward offered by the State from \$250 to \$500 for the arrest of the assailant of Mrs. Shields. The total reward now offered is \$1,525.

Michael E. Halley, who does business under the name of Halley and Company dealers in grain and cotton stock, in New York, today made an assignment for the benefit of his creditors.

anese made a vicious attack on Port Arthur. The place is reported in flames. The Japanese are said to have suffered heavily, losing eleven war ships. One Russian warship is also reported sunk. Eleven Russians are said to have been killed and many wounded.

Paris, Feb. 9.—The St. Petersburg correspondent of the Agence Nationale reaffirms that two Russian battleships were sunk in the fight with Japanese vessels off Port Arthur.

Chifu, Feb. 9.—The Japanese fleet, which last night attacked the Russian ships outside Port Arthur, this morning continued the bombardment of Port Arthur. No material damage is said to have been done to the city thus far.

London, Feb. 9.—The dispatch from St. Petersburg reporting an attack on Port Arthur in which 11 Japanese battle ships and 1 Russian battle ship were sunk, has not been confirmed. The report is given little credence here. The fact that the usual 24 hours notice of a bombardment to non-combatants has not been given to the British and other vessels in Port Arthur harbor, makes the story appear untrue.

London, Feb. 9.—A dispatch was received here this afternoon stating that it was in reply to St. Petersburg that Japanese troops had been landed at Masampo, Korea.

The Russian Ambassador today had a lengthy conference with Lord Lansdowne, the British Foreign Minister. Baron Hayashi, the Japanese Minister, is authority for the statement that Russia is doing her utmost through the various powers to bring about intervention. Hayashi says, however, that the efforts have come too late.

Paris, Feb. 9.—An official dispatch to the Foreign Minister today says the Russian cruiser Pallada was sunk and the Russian battleships Retvizan and Tzarevitch seriously damaged in the fight between Russian and Japanese vessels outside of Port Arthur harbor at midnight last night.

Paris, Feb. 9.—It is reported here that the Japanese fleet is bombarding Port Arthur.

Paris, Feb. 9.—Report of the bombardment of Port Arthur was received at the foreign office.

London, Feb. 9.—The St. Petersburg correspondent of the News wires that a panic occurred in the St. Petersburg bourse today, prices falling heavily on the receipt of news of the Japanese success.

Paris, Feb. 9.—A dispatch from St. Petersburg states that Russia has contracted a war loan of 600,000,000 roubles (\$309,000,000).

London, Feb. 9.—The St. Petersburg correspondent of the Central News wires that an official contradiction has been issued to the report that eleven Japanese and one Russian battleship had been sunk in a fight, and that Port Arthur was attacked. Reuter's Telegraph Company also denies the report that 11 Japanese war ships and one Russian vessel were sunk during an attack on Port Arthur.

From Richmond.

[Special Dispatch to the Alexandria Gazette.]

Richmond, Feb. 9.—Mr. Kezell offered a resolution in the Senate today calling on the State board to adopt a single book list and to allow the exchange of old for new books, and it was referred.

The House by a vote of 42 to 40 rejected the Gravelly bill exempting one dog from taxation to each household.

Mr. Cron offered a House bill to relieve manufacturers of certain taxes so as to encourage them to come into the State.

The Lion bill was passed by the House authorizing the establishment of a State normal school for girls at Manassas.

Mr. Hanna's Condition.

Washington, Feb. 9.—Senator Hanna spent a very comfortable night, with four or five hours of natural sleep. The doctors are of the opinion that the irritability of stomach, which was complained of yesterday was induced by a too liberal allowance of milk. The Senator's brother, H. M. Hanna, is much encouraged, although aware that the drop in temperature is